[1st August 1933

(d) Yes; six petitions, besides a letter from the hon. Member himself were received by the Government in which allegations were made that certain Excise officers were taking bribes.

(e) Four petitions purported to be from sweet toddy-drawers and two from toddy shop renters.

(f) Two petitions were forwarded to the Commissioner of Excise for disposal. The remaining four petitions and the letter from the hon. Member have been sent to the Commissioner for enquiry and report. The Commissioner's report is awaited.

Mr. G. Sriramulu :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to place on the table of the House the report after it is received? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The same answer as for the supplementary question to the previous question."

Revenue under sale of toddy shops in the East and West Godavari districts.

* 27 *Q.*—Mr. G. Sriramulu : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to place on the table of the House the statistics of income to the Government by the sale of toddy shops and also by the payment of tree-tax by the sweet toddy-drawers in each of the years 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933 in each of the East and West Godavari districts?

A.—The Government have not the statistics but have called for them.

Mr. G. Sriramulu :—" Will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table of the House as soon as it is received? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" Yes."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Excise consider the need for increasing and making tree tax, etc.. uniform for the whole Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The question has been considered more than once, even quite recently, on account of some observations made on the floor of this House. We examined it and we have not found it possible to do so."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" May I ask whether there is any policy with regard to the question of prohibition or temperance? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" Yes."

Restrictions on the drawing of sweet toddy.

* 28 *Q.*—Mr. G. Sriramulu : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that sweet toddy-drawers were formerly permitted to draw sweet toddy throughout the year;